



The Office of Legislator Al Krupski

Suffolk County Legislator

1st District

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Legislator Al Krupski Blasts U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for Plan to Continue Dumping in Long Island Sound

(RIVERHEAD, N.Y.) Suffolk County Legislator Al Krupski has delivered a message to the Army Corps of Engineers: End Dumping in the Long Island Sound

In a letter dated Aug. 10, 2015 and addressed to the New England District of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Legislator Krupski voiced his strong objections to the apparent plans of USACE to continue to utilize the Long Island Sound for open-water disposal of dredged materials, the bulk of which are generated in Connecticut.

“The Long Island Sound is an estuary of national significance, and for many of the millions of people who live on Long Island and in Connecticut, it is a vital resource for fishing, recreating and commerce,” Legislator Krupski wrote. “The water quality of the Long Island Sound has been degraded for decades by inappropriate land use, overdevelopment, pollution ... and hypoxia. It is imperative that all governmental agencies do everything possible to protect this vitally important resource. To continue to dump dredge spoil from potentially contaminated sites is in sharp contrast to this charge.”

Legislator Krupski, since his tenure as a Southold Town Councilman, has called on the USACE to plan for the cessation of open-water disposal of dredged materials in the Long Island Sound and for the Corps to plan for the beneficial reuse of materials such as beach re-nourishment and for other upland re-uses.

The four open-water disposal sites in the Long Island Sound were slated to close in 2016 unless a management plan was developed. In 2005, the USACE, coordinating with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), was charged with developing a Dredge Material Management Plan (DMMP) for Long Island Sound. The plan, along with the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS), which is not site specific, will be released on August 17, 2015, giving the public only one week to review the documents before the first public hearing on Long Island scheduled for Aug. 24.

Legislator Krupski also expressed his frustration with the USACE’s failure to adequately notify the public and other interested parties, including town and county governments, on the pending hearings for the PEIS and the DMMP.

“A plan of such public import deserves to be scrutinized by stakeholders and adequate time should be given to do so,” Legislator Krupski wrote. The 32-day public comment period, which ends on Sept. 18, 2015, should be extended to allow stakeholders enough time to read the documents, consider the findings and respond.”

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